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SPECIAL ISSUE 10

## HERLOCK ! by: Ann Butler

Many centuries ago, a highly advanced race of plant — based beings lived in a solar system far from our galaxy. An amazonian society, the Mazone made use of slave labor by 'planting' a suitable world and, after the race matured, the Mazone would conquer the planet. After the takeover of twelve worlds, Queen Rafflesia, the ruler of the Mazones, recalled a thirteenth planet five years travel from Mazone, their homeworld. A blue planet, that still held the seed that had been planted so long ago. So the Mazone left their homeworld and journeyed toward the third planet in a solar system on the far side of the galaxy... the planet Earth.

The Earth had changed from the primitive world the Mazone had once known. In the year 2977, man's technology enabled him to stave off hunger and disease. Robots farmed the land and transported food to the city, and with the help of agricultural outposts in space, most people didn't have to work. With so many people who had a great deal of time on their hands, the world government did it's best to keep the populace entertained, but it still feared dissension. To remedy the situation they authorized sending 'sleep' waves through the television screens in their citizen's homes. As a result, people became inactive and dulled with satisfaction. Yet, a few remained who looked to the future: but they were laughed at and ridiculed, their dreams & ideas crushed as people ignored them and the universe above.

The Mazone found the planet wasted, it's people docile and mostly ignorant of the galaxy about them. A signal pennant with the words, in an ancient tongue, "This Is The Second Home Of The Almighty Mazone" was sent ahead to guide the main fleet to the Earth. However, the Mazone found that one man and his ship stood between their new home and themselves; and he was as determined as they.

His name— Herlock, a man who had rebelled against the government of Earth and raised the flag of the Jolly Roger on his ship, the Arcadia. With a crew of 42 aboard, they raided the shipping lanes, boarding transports and destroying most of the cargo; except for grain, which he took. The grain was kept until there was need for it on the Earth. He is estimated to be 28, with no background save that he was guided by one Sundown McMoon, the man who built the Arcadia. But he has hopes for Earth's future, and the future of her people, so he fights until the hope is realized.

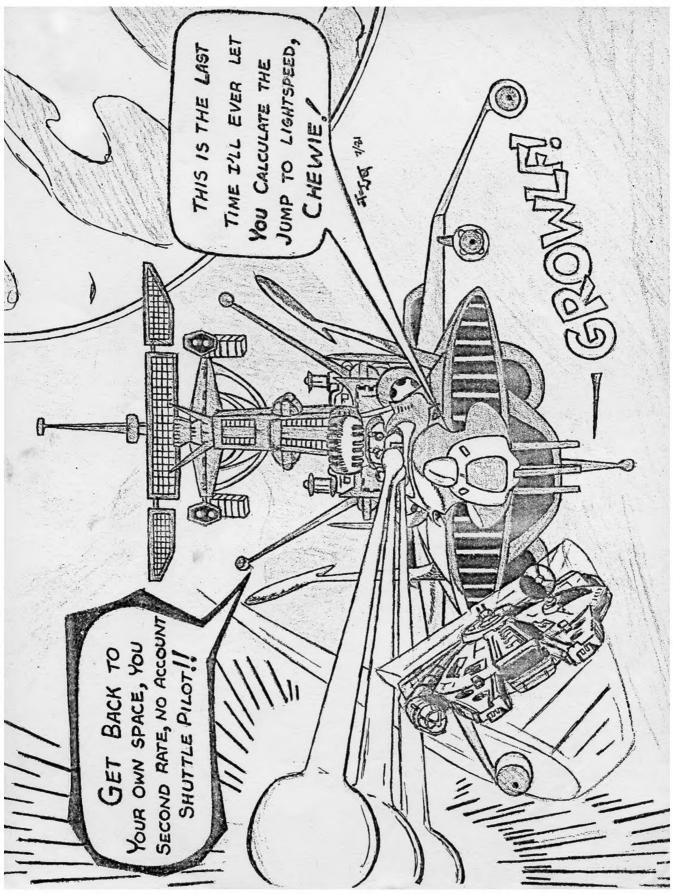
The Arcadia has an overall length of 400 meters. Her radar system consists of a time radar which pursues an enemy craft by catching the afterimage, a cosmos-radar to cover a wide range which when combined with ordinary three-dimensional radar, gives the ship the ability to catch anything. Her main guns which quick fire are "Pulsar Cannons" with "Space Buster" missiles, ten fighters named "Cosmobats" and five special tanks called "Docras", high technology even for this age.

Much isn't known about Herlock, or about the builder of the Arcadia, except that Sundown has a daughter, Mayu (Maya) to whom Herlock is a guardian. Nor is much known about Yatteran, the first

mate or Doctor Zero, save that they are a bit eccentric, as is the cook, Ms. Masu. Meemay, the woman who gave her life to Herlock, is physically similar to the Mazone except that she is alcohol-based, not water as are they, and must drink liquor to survive. Yuki Kei, the gunner & one of the staff officers, is the daughter of Prof. Yuki. She was rescued from the brig of a ship that Herlock raided after she attacked the captain of the ship when he insulted her father, who was killed in an accident. Tadashi Diaba, who lost his mother in an accident, also lost his father to the Mazone. He became a member of the Arcadia crew after the Earth government refused to help him and was thrown in prison for seeing Herlock by General Kiranda (Gilman). General Kiranda is obsessed with catching or killing Herlock, using any means possible, even people such as Diaba or Mayu, Herlock's ward.

A small band of dreamers, with a belief in the future and the vast ocean that is space. They follow a man and share his dream. Earth's mysterious "guardian angel"—Space Pirate

CAPTAIN HERLOCK





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"BURR" (Lirt Al'Trr), Kaygul Privateer, with ship HAMPRA





